AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 20, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

If the central master mapping table includes an entry defining a mapping of the network address associated with the receiver host to a predetermined label, at step 512, the network entity aggregates the new data flow to the existing label. Alternatively, if the central master mapping table does not include the network address mapping to the predetermined label, at step 514, the network entity allocates a new label for the host. According to an exemplary embodiment, when the network entity allocates new labels for hosts, the network entity creates new entries in the central master mapping tables. The new entries include mappings between the allocated labels and network addresses for which the labels have been allocated. Further, the entries in the table may define QoS information associated with each newly allocated label. Thus, when the network entity allocates the new label for the host, at step 516[[616]], the network entity stores the mapping between the network address of the receiver host and the newly allocated label in the central master mapping table.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 21, line 7, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 6 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary system 600 that employs an MPLS to create a label switched path between a source host and one or more destination hosts that share a common external network address for communicating with network devices on an external network. The exemplary system 600 includes a first host 602, a second host 604 and a third host 606 having a common globally-routable network address such as a Layer 3 address, according to

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the OSI model, an IP address, IP1. The first host 602, the second host 604, and the third host 606 may include modules that implement VoIP communication having unique physical addresses such as Layer 2 addresses. For example, the Layer-2 addresses may include unique MAC addresses for each host. As illustrated in Figure 6[[7]], network addresses M1, M2, and M3 are associated with the first host 602, the second host 604, and the third host 606, respectively. Further, according to an exemplary embodiment, each host is associated with a predetermined label assigned to the host. As illustrated in Figure 6, labels L1, L2, L3 are associated with respective hosts 602, 604, 606. Further, the first host 602, the second host 604, and the third host 606 include sub-identifier fields containing a range of port numbers that may be assigned to each host.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 25, line 3, with the following amended paragraph:

At step 708, a network entity associated with the plurality of destination hosts receives the data packet from an adjacent MPLS node switch. In an exemplary embodiment illustrated in Figure 6[[7]], the network entity includes the switching fabric 608. According to an exemplary embodiment, the received data packet includes a predetermined label that was inserted to the data packet by the last adjacent MPLS switch on the label switch path. At step 710[[708]], the network entity performs an address look-up using the label specified in the data packet. According to an exemplary embodiment, the network entity may retrieve a copy of a master routing table to determine the mapping of the label to a predetermined network address associated with one of the receiver hosts. At step 712, the network entity obtains a physical address of a destination host based on the label in the received data packet. For example, in the

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embodiment illustrated in Figure 6, the adjacent MPLS switch 616 inserts the label L1 to the data packet based on the label switching path established during the RSVP process for sending data from the host 640 to the host 602, and the switching fabric 608 receives the data packet with the label L1. In such an embodiment, the switching fabric 608 performs the address look-up using the label L1, and maps the label L1 to the physical network address M1 associated with the host 602.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 26, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

Once the switching fabric 608 receives the data packet 806 having the label L1, the switching fabric 608 invokes a copy of a master mapping table to determine a network address of a destination host. Alternatively, if the switching fabric 608 does not have a copy of a mater mapping table, the switching fabric 608 may retrieve the master mapping table from the central route server 614. Once the switching fabric 608 accesses the master mapping table, the switching fabric 608 performs an address look-up for a destination host using the label in the received data packet 806. In the exemplary embodiment, the received data packet 806 is labeled with the label L1 that maps to a physical network address M1 of the host 602, as shown in the routing table 642. Once the switching fabric 608 determines the physical network address, the switching fabric 608[[708]] rewrites a physical address in the data packet 806 to the physical network address M1 and routes the data packet to the destination host 602.

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Please replace the paragraph starting on page 26, line 21, with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 9 is a block diagram illustrating an exemplary system 900 operating according to an exemplary embodiment. The system 900 illustrates two hosts 902 and 910 coupled to a local area network 918. The local area network 918 is coupled to a switching fabric 920. The switching fabric 918 is coupled to routers 940. According to an exemplary embodiment, a plurality of MPLS switches is illustrated as a single block 940. The routers 940 are coupled to an egress network 944. A third host 946[[948]] is coupled to the egress network 944. A mapping table 930 is coupled to the switching fabric 920.

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